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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this Patent Application:

Claims 1 to 10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A set comprising a head for use with a handpiece of a contra-angle, and a dental instrument adapted for use with the head;

wherein the instrument has an active part at a first end, and a handle at a second end of the instrument opposite to the first end;

wherein the head has a body for receiving a shaft for transmitting rotational movement produced by a mechanical member associated with the handpiece, and a bore forming a housing for receiving the handle of the instrument;

wherein the handle of the instrument includes a first rotary drive which, when mounted in the housing, is capable of meshing directly with a second rotary drive associated with the body of the head;

wherein the first rotary drive is capable of retractable axial retention in the housing, independently of the second rotary drive;

wherein the first rotary drive has a direction of

rotation, the second rotary drive has a direction of rotation, and the direction of rotation of the first rotary drive is the same as the direction of rotation of the second rotary drive;

wherein the first rotary drive includes a pinion capable of engaging a drive pinion located inside the body of the head, in the vicinity of the housing, and which is mounted on the shaft for transmitting the rotational movement produced by the mechanical member to the instrument, for causing rotational movement of the instrument;

wherein the pinion of the first rotary drive has a profile, the second rotary drive includes the drive pinion located inside the body of the head, the drive pinion has a profile, and the profile of the pinion of the first rotary drive meshes with the profile of the drive pinion of the second rotary drive when the instrument is placed in the housing, and wherein the pinion of the first rotary drive and the drive pinion of the second rotary drive come into contact at bottom portions of the drive pinion of the second rotary drive;

wherein the head is shaped to receive the instrument through an opening for insertion of the instrument into the housing so that the instrument is inserted through the opening by placing the head on the handle of the instrument; and

wherein the head further includes a retractable retainer for engaging the handle of the instrument inserted through the opening, ~~responsive to manual operation, wherein~~

~~the housing for receiving the handle of the instrument further includes an opening for insertion of the instrument into the housing,~~ and wherein the retractable retainer includes a retention member which projects across the opening of the housing, and a ring coupled with the retention member and movable relative to the body of the head, against a restoring spring, wherein the ring is mounted concentrically on the body of the head.

12: (previously presented) The set of claim 11 wherein the instrument further includes a shoulder adjacent to the first rotary drive, on a side of the handle nearest to the active part of the instrument, for engagement by the retention member of the retractable retainer.

13. (canceled).

14. (previously presented) The set of claim 12 wherein the retention member further includes a sloped surface on an outer face of the retention member, and wherein the handle further includes a profile which cooperates with the sloped surface of the retention member so that when the handle is inserted into the head, the profile of the handle causes retraction of the retention member.

15. (currently amended) The set of claim 14 wherein the retention member further includes a horseshoe-shaped profile for cooperating with the [[a]] shoulder of ~~formed on~~ the instrument.

Claims 16 to 18 (canceled).

19. (previously presented) The set of claim 11 wherein the opening of the housing has a mouth for receiving the handle and the first rotary drive of the instrument.

20. (previously presented) The set of claim 11 wherein the opening of the housing is located along bottom portions of the housing, adjacent to the first rotary drive of the instrument.

21. (previously presented) The set of claim 14 wherein the opening of the housing has a mouth for receiving the handle and the first rotary drive of the instrument, and wherein the sloped surface of the retention member is adjacent to the mouth of the opening.

22. (previously presented) The set of claim 14 wherein the sloped surface of the retention member is located along bottom portions of the housing, adjacent to the first rotary drive of the instrument.

23. (previously presented) The set of claim 11 wherein the ring at least partially surrounds the body of the head.

24. (new) The set of claim 11 wherein the opening is located between the bore forming the housing and exterior portions of the head, for insertion of the instrument through the opening and into the housing.

25. (new) The set of claim 11 wherein the retractable retainer automatically engages the handle of the instrument.

26. (new) A set comprising a head for use with a handpiece of a contra-angle, and a dental instrument coupled with the head;

wherein the instrument has an active part at a first end, and a handle at a second end of the instrument opposite to the first end;

wherein the head has a body for receiving a shaft for transmitting rotational movement produced by a mechanical member associated with the handpiece, and a bore forming a housing which receives the handle of the instrument;

wherein the handle of the instrument includes a first rotary drive which, when mounted in the housing, is capable of meshing directly with a second rotary drive associated with the body of the head;

wherein the first rotary drive is retractably axially retained in the housing, independently of the second rotary drive;

wherein the first rotary drive has a direction of rotation, the second rotary drive has a direction of rotation, and the direction of rotation of the first rotary drive is the same as the direction of rotation of the second rotary drive;

wherein the first rotary drive includes a pinion capable of engaging a drive pinion located inside the body of the head, in the vicinity of the housing, and which is mounted on the shaft for transmitting the rotational movement produced by the mechanical member to the instrument, for causing rotational movement of the instrument;

wherein the pinion of the first rotary drive has a profile, the second rotary drive includes the drive pinion located inside the body of the head, the drive pinion has a profile, and the profile of the pinion of the first rotary drive meshes with the profile of the drive pinion of the second rotary drive when the instrument is placed in the housing, and wherein the pinion of the first rotary drive and the drive pinion of the second rotary drive come into contact at bottom portions of the drive pinion of the second rotary drive;

wherein the head is shaped to receive the instrument through an opening for insertion of the instrument into the housing so that the instrument is inserted through the opening

by placing the head on the handle of the instrument; and wherein the head further includes a retractable retainer which engages the handle of the instrument inserted through the opening, and wherein the retractable retainer includes a retention member which projects across the opening of the housing, and a ring coupled with the retention member and movable relative to the body of the head, against a restoring spring, wherein the ring is mounted concentrically on the body of the head.

27. (new) The set of claim 26 wherein the instrument further includes a shoulder adjacent to the first rotary drive, on a side of the handle nearest to the active part of the instrument, which is engaged by the retention member of the retractable retainer.

28. (new) The set of claim 27 wherein the retention member further includes a sloped surface on an outer face of the retention member, and wherein the handle further includes a profile which cooperates with the sloped surface of the retention member so that when the handle is inserted into the head, the profile of the handle causes retraction of the retention member.

29. (new) The set of claim 28 wherein the retention member further includes a horseshoe-shaped profile which

cooperates with the shoulder of the instrument.

30. (new) The set of claim 28 wherein the opening of the housing has a mouth which receives the handle and the first rotary drive of the instrument, and wherein the sloped surface of the retention member is adjacent to the mouth of the opening.

31. (new) The set of claim 28 wherein the sloped surface of the retention member is located along bottom portions of the housing, adjacent to the first rotary drive of the instrument.

32. (new) The set of claim 26 wherein the opening of the housing has a mouth which receives the handle and the first rotary drive of the instrument.

33. (new) The set of claim 26 wherein the opening of the housing is located along bottom portions of the housing, adjacent to the first rotary drive of the instrument.

34. (new) The set of claim 26 wherein the ring at least partially surrounds the body of the head.

35. (new) The set of claim 26 wherein the opening is located between the bore forming the housing and exterior



portions of the head, for insertion of the instrument through the opening and into the housing.

36. (new) The set of claim 26 wherein the retractable retainer automatically engages the handle of the instrument.